

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows. Only claims 1 and 3 are pending. Deletions appear in ~~strike through font~~, and additions are underlined.

Complete listing of claims

1. **(Currently amended)** A method to determine whether a test substance inhibits or acts as a ligand of a at least one binding domain of a protein, comprising:
- incubating said test substance with a mixture,
- wherein said mixture comprises:
- a) the protein,
 - b) at least one marker substrate, and
 - c) at least one substrate; and
- determining whether the test substance inhibits or acts as a ligand of the at least one binding domain of the protein by comparing the conversion of the marker substrate in the presence of the test substance with the corresponding conversion in control mixtures A and B,
- wherein the protein contains at least one catalytic domain and at least one binding domain,
- wherein the marker substrate is converted by said at least one catalytic domain of the protein,
- wherein the substrate is capable of binding to said at least one catalytic domain and to said at least one binding domain of the protein,

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

wherein the control mixture A comprises the protein and the marker substrate; and the control mixture B comprises the protein, the substrate, and the marker substrate, and

wherein the test substance is an inhibitor or ligand of the said at least one binding domain of the protein if the conversion of the marker substrate in the presence of the test substance is between the values obtained with control mixtures A and B.

Claim 2. (Cancelled)

- c/
3. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protein is collagenase, the substrate is collagen, and the marker substrate is (7-methoxycoumarin-4-yl)acetyl-Pro-Leu-Gly-Leu-(3-[2,4-dinitrophenyl]-L-2,3-diaminopropionyl)-Ala-Arg-NH₂.

Claims 4-17. (Cancelled)

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com